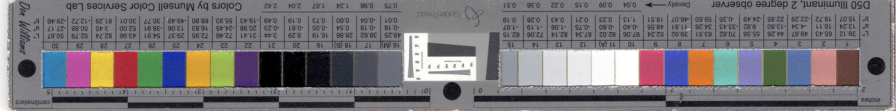


The Directors of the Library Company  
respectfully  
Report,-

That they are able to congratulate the members of the company on the settlement of the difficulties which have been supposed to attend the acceptance of the munificent devise of the late Dr. James Rush; a trust which, if properly administered cannot fail to be highly advantageous to the public as well as to the members of the Library Company.

As the Company considered it best by their resolution of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1869, to accept the gift, the Directors have done what was possible to carry out the wishes of the Members. An act of Assembly and certain modifications by the proper court, of its Charter, have been obtained, which enable the Library Company to act as Trustees under Dr Rush's will without affecting its own books and collections, except so far as may be thought just to comply in good faith with the expectations of the testator. A noble structure fireproof in all its parts and the finest edifice devoted to library purposes in the United States has been erected by his executor, Henry J. Williams, Esq. who has discharged the onerous duties devolved upon him with conscientious fidelity and efficiency. A suit which was instituted by him to ascertain the rights of the parties interested has just been determined. The decree of the Court of Common Pleas, made on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1878 establishes that while the Company has already accepted the bequest of Dr. Rush,





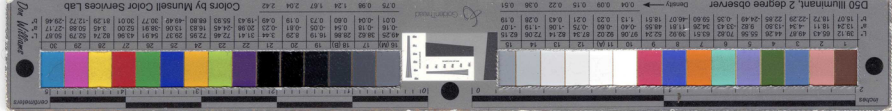


It has done so on terms which substantially preserve the identity of the old institution, and enable it to use for the public good the property thus confided to it without imperilling that which has come to it from other sources. In accordance with that decree, a deed of trust, which was carefully examined and unanimously approved and accepted by the Board has been executed to the Company, a copy of which is herewith submitted. It will be seen that this deed conveys not only the building in Broad Street, but also the residuary estate of the late Dr. James Rush which constitutes the endowment fund of the Ridgway Branch. This endowment consists of Real Estate valued at \$300,000 yielding a gross income of nearly \$30,000.~ and a net income after paying taxes, repairs and expenses, of over \$18,000. It is charged with the payment of annuities amounting to \$5,680, but it is estimated that even now after defraying the necessary expenses of the Ridgway Branch, a considerable yearly sum will be left for the purchase of books.~

Another gratifying fact which the Board are able to communicate at the present time and one which removes the principal objection heretofore felt to the acceptance of Dr. Rush's gift is that the Supreme Court has recently decided that so much of the Company's property as is actually used for library purposes is exempt from taxation.

In the mean time the present library building has become so crowded, that there is little or no further shelf room available for the storage of books. Immediate relief from this embarrassment will be afforded by the use of the Ridgway Branch, into which the Directors propose





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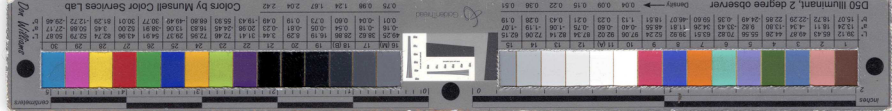


to remove not only such books as, if destroyed by fire, could never be replaced, but also with the approbation of their Co-trustees, the entire Loganian Library together with that portion of the Company's own Collection which may be considered more particularly as a library of reference. The business of a circulating library which was the original and primary object of the Association will still be carried on mainly in the present building which will be connected by telephone with the one at Broad and Christian Streets, the American District Telegraph Company affording facilities for sending books from either to the houses of members and others.

The above mentioned action of the Court, investing the Company with the management of the Trust created by Dr. Rush's will, finds the Board of Directors charged with the administration of another trust, that is to say, the Building Fund started in 1856. This fund as will be seen by the accompanying Report of the Treasurer, now amounts to \$117,544.44 of which \$71,809.18 is invested in Real Estate at the corner of Locust and Juniper Streets. The remainder would be sufficient, at the present reduced cost of building, to put up a fire proof structure on that or some other lot sufficient to contain all the books which it is necessary for the Company to keep in a central location; and whenever a satisfactory offer is received for the Company's property at 5<sup>th</sup> and Library Streets the question of removal will be seriously entertained.

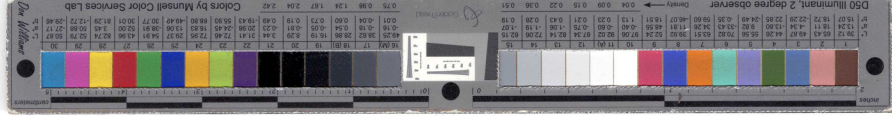
In conclusion, the Directors once more congratulate the Company on the eminently prosperous condition of its affairs and confidently predict for the institution an increase of usefulness in the future.





to remove not only such books as, if destroyed by  
fire, could never be replaced, but also with the  
superintention of their Co-trustees, the entire Japanese  
Library together with that portion of the Company's own  
Collection which may be considered more particularly as  
a library of reference. The business of a circulating library  
which was the original and primary object of the com-  
pany will still be carried on mainly in the present  
building which will be converted by itself as well as the  
one at Broad and Christian Streets, the American Library  
Company offering facilities for reading books  
from either to the houses of members and others.  
The above mentioned action of the Court, investing the  
Company with the management of the Broad Street Library  
by Mr. Rubin will, finds the Board of Directors charged  
with the administration of another trust, that is to say  
the Building Fund started in 1855. This fund as will  
be seen by the accompanying Report of the Treasurer,  
now amounts to \$117,544. The attached 1889-90 is  
invested in Real Estate at the corner of Essex and  
Fountain Streets. The remainder would be sufficient, at the  
present reduced cost of building, to put up a fine four story  
one on that or some other lot sufficient to contain all the  
books which it is necessary for the Company to keep in a  
Central location; and moreover a satisfactory office in-  
vested for the Company's property at 5<sup>th</sup> and Broadway Streets.  
The question of removal will be seriously entertained.  
In conclusion, the Directors once more congratulate  
the Company on the eminently prosperous condition of  
its affairs and confidently predict for the institution an  
increase of usefulness in the future.





Directors of the Library Company  
Report.

that they are able to congratulate  
the public on the successful completion of the  
building which have been supposed to attend the receipt  
of the gift of the late Dr. Rush's library  
which if properly administered cannot fail to be  
of great benefit to the public as well as to the  
Library Company.

The Company considered it best by their resolution  
of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1837, to accept the gift, the Board  
of Directors.

The Members. An act of Assembly and certain modifications  
to its Charter, have been obtained  
which enable the Library Company to act as Trustees under  
Dr. Rush's will, without affecting its own books and collection  
except so far as may be thought just to comply in  
accordance with the intentions of the testator. A noble  
structure fireproof in all its parts and the finest edifice devoted  
to library purposes in the United States has been erected  
by its executor, Henry J. Williams, Esq. who has discharged  
the onerous duties devolved upon him with conscientious  
fidelity and efficiency. A suit which was instituted by him  
to ascertain the rights of the parties interested has just been  
decided. The decree of the Court of Common Pleas  
made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1838 establishes that while the  
Company has already accepted the bequest of Dr. Rush.



May 6, 1878  
Annual Report of the  
Board of Directors to the  
Shareholders -

(adopted by the Board  
May 4 - 1878)

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